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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

The present invention relates to a recording/reproducing head and a recording/reproducing apparatus incorporating the recording/reproducing head. More particularly, the present invention relates to a recording/reproducing head, a recording/reproducing apparatus, and a fabrication method thereof which are capable of higher-density recording than conventional hard disks and magneto-optical disk apparatuses.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART:

A hard disk drive (HDD) 1000 represented in Figure 11 or a magneto-optical disk (MO) apparatus 2000 represented in Figure 12 can record information signal in high density. These apparatuses include a magnetic head 1019 and a magneto-optical head 2020, respectively, as a recording/reproducing head.

When the magnetic head 1019 as shown in Figure 11 is used to attempt to obtain high-density recording/reproducing which exceeds about 40 Gb/inch², reproducing is feasible if a giant magnetoresistive (GMR) device 1014 is provided between shields 1015. In a structure of the magnetic head 1019 in which a surface of the GMR device 1014 is exposed, friction or noise occurs due to the GMR device 1014. When a tunnel type GMR (TMR) device is used instead of the GMR device 1014, a short circuit is likely to occur. Such a problem may be avoided by means of a so-called yoke-type head (not shown). In a conventional yoke-type head, however, a gap needs to be provided between the GMR device 1014 (or the TMR device)

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